The rabbit hole:

A study of all the names given to the True Story, the Nutnauts and the Nut Islands.

Introduction

Sometimes when trying to give and search for explanations and information about the Nut Islands, one can get confused with expressions like “A true tale”, “Relatos fantásticos” or “The True Story”, etc., and one can end up asking: What is each thing? Are they different or are they the same?

Well, with this short paper I intend to finally answer these questions and hopefully clarify the most correct terms to use.

Please note that, in this writing I have included the names and titles of the books that I intend to clarify in Spanish, and in other languages, if you aren’t interested in that, you can ignore those translations completely.

“True Stories” and “The Dictionary to Imaginary Places” and their variants

“A true tale” may be the most important expression of all, as it refers to the work, the book from which all our most essential information comes.

In the beginning of the CEIIN and until I realized otherwise, I referred to the book from which the Nueznautas come as “The Fantastic Stories” **THIS IS INCORRECT**. The title “The Fantastic Stories” was created by the Alianza publishing house to group several of Lucian’s writings under a single book.

Lucian’s true work in which the Nueznautas appear (not “The Nuts Islands”) goes by several names, but the most common in Spanish is “Historias Verdaderas”; this is the work in which Lucian wrote the word “Nutnaut” and everything we know for certain about them. Sometimes it is also referred to as “Historia Verdadera”, but it is the same book. To be more specific, the mention of the Nueznautas is in Book II (second) of that work. Lucian himself divides his work into two “books”, as was the custom until approximately the beginning of the 19th century.

On the other hand, we find a singular example, which I suspect is used for the Latin American versions of the work, of the title of the work changing completely, being replaced

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by “Relatos Verídicos”. But even rarer and an example of which I have only been able to find one example is the case of “Relatos verdaderos”. You will eventually find editions under these titles, which are equally valid.

In Italian (a language into which the book has curiously been translated quite a bit) the title is “Storia Vera”. Sometimes it can also be found as “Una Storia Vera”.

In French I have found it after a little research under three possible titles: “Histoires vraies”, “Histoire vraie” or “Histoire véritable”.

Unfortunately, English is not so consistent with its references to the book. “The / A True History / Story” (without including the “/” of course) is how most publishers title the book, and as we can see, just like in Spanish, there is conflict over whether the title should be singular or plural or whether it is a “History” or a “Story”. Then there is the singular case of “A traveller's true tale”, which is nothing more than a harmless singular case. Something I want to emphasize is the title of “Trip to the moon”; under this title books with the same story as the one we are interested in have been published, yes, **BUT ONLY THE FIRST PART.** Apparently, in English-speaking literary circles there is a special interest in True Stories, yes, but only the first book, in which Lucian goes to the Moon and is eaten by a whale. **THIS PART OF THE WORK DOES NOT INTEREST US**, because as I said before, the reference to the Nueznuatas is in the second book.

Then there is the case of two titles that have nothing to do with the concept of “True Stories”, but still refer to the same book. On the one hand there is “The Greek Gulliver” (which will appear under the authorship of “Alfred J. Church”) and on the other there is “True History Decrypted” (whose author will appear as “Frank Redmond”); in both of these cases, the content is the same, books 1 and 2, only containing footnotes and I suppose introductions by Alfred J. Church and Frank Redmond respectively.

The other important book from which our information comes is “La Guía de Lugares Imaginarios” by Alberto Manguel and Gianni Guadalupi. This book does not vary as much as A true Story, and its equivalent in English is: “Dictionary of Imaginary Places”.

“Nueznautas” and its variations

To translate the word “Karyonautai” (the Greek word originally used by Lucian according to some editions) into Spanish, I have been able to find two translations: one in what is essentially a “fanfic” of the true story written in the Spanish Golden Age, which refers to them as “Carionautas”, and the modern version, used by all the editions I have been able to find, is “Nueznautas”. We could decipher this word as “Navegantes de las nueces”, and we could reason that Nueznautas in English would be something like “Walnut-sailors”, but no.

The variations of the word “Nueznauta” in English that I could find are these:

- Nut-shell-sailors

- Caryonautans
- Nut-sailors
- Nutshell-mariners
- Nutnauts

They aren't many, but they are very annoying to try to keep in mind when researching in English, especially when none of them contain terms like "Walnut" that are present in Spanish, or combinations of "nut" "sailors" or "nauts".

There are no correct or incorrect variations in this case, if you are going to research, use all the terms and add a suffix like "lucian" or "true history" if nothing comes up at first.

"The Nut Islands" and its variations

I was not originally going to include this part in this writing, but while I was researching I found a PDF version of the English translation of the book "The Dictionary of Imaginary Places", which gave me the opportunity to find the entry in the book that talks about the Islas de las Nueces in English.

In English, apparently, the name of the Islas de las Nueces in English is "Nut Islands"; again, there we have the term "Nut" instead of "Walnut".

Now, I would like to add as a footnote that the term Nut Islands is not one that Lucian coined, but I suppose it is a name that Alberto Manguel and Gianni Guadalupi had to give to refer to this unnamed place from which the Nutnauts come. **I repeat**: "The Nut Islands" is not an invention of Lucian but of the Dictionary of Imaginary Places.